Protection list in ASEAN agreement

1389. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any protection list in ASEAN agreement which was approved by all member countries; and

(b) if so, which items are included in this list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) India and the ASEAN member countries, except Singapore, have Exclusion (Negative) Lists of products on which no tariff concession is offered.

(b) Complete lists of India and ASEAN member countries' offers indicating the details of items included in the Exclusion (Negative) Lists are available at http://commerce.gov.in/trade/international_ta_indasean.asp

FTA with EU

1390. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FTA with European Union could not be finalized even after seven rounds of talks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the efforts made to finalize the FTA at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is negotiating a bilateral Broad - based Trade and Investment Agreement with the European Union (EU).

The negotiations commenced in June 2007 covering areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Customs Cooperation & Trade Facilitation, Dispute Settlement, Competition and Intellectual Property Rights. So far, seven rounds of negotiations have been held. The Seventh Round of Negotiations was held in July, 2009. Legal texts of the proposed agreement in all these areas have been exchanged and are being discussed. Tariff liberalisation offers have also been exchanged on trade in goods.

(b) and (c) EU has 27 Member countries having varying trade interests and has to consult all member countries before moving ahead on different issues. India also undertakes consultations with the stake holders to assess the impact of various offers and requests made by the EU for the FTA negotiations to protect the interests of Indian agricultural, industrial and other sectors. So far, seven